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FM THE SITUATION ROOM

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TO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

S E C R E T SENSITIVE EYES ONLY

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TOHAK255

PLEASE DELIVER TO BREMER / RODMAN FOR THE SECRETARY

MAY 20, 1974

TO: JERRY BREMER/PETER RODMAN FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER
FROM: BRENT SCOWCROFT

1. THE PRESIDENT CALLED TO ASK WHAT YOUR CURRENT THOUGHTS WERE ON THE PROSPECTS FOR HIS TRIP TO THE MIDDLE EAST. I SAID THAT YOU HAD NOT COMMENTED SPECIFICALLY ON THAT OVER THE WEEKEND BUT, SINCE YOU HAD NOT RULED OUT A TRIP EVEN WHEN PROSPECTS SEEMED MOST DOUBTFUL, I ASSUMED IF YOU WERE TO GET AN AGREEMENT YOU WOULD BE VERY FAVORABLY DISPOSED TOWARD A TRIP.

2. THE PRESIDENT SAID HE ASSUMED LIKEWISE AND SAID WE SHOULD PROBABLY START THINKING ABOUT SUCH THINGS AS TIMING AND ITINERARY. HE SUGGESTED THAT A TRIP PROBABLY SHOULD COME AS EARLY AS WE COULD ARRANGE IT IN JUNE SO AS NOT TO BE BACK TO BACK WITH THE SOVIET TRIP. WITH REGARD TO COUNTRIES TO BE VISITED, HE SAID IT MIGHT NOT BE POSSIBLE TO DO EVERYTHING WE WOULD LIKE TO, GIVEN THE CONSTRAINTS OF TIME. THE COUNTRIES HE MENTIONED WERE EGYPT, ISRAEL, SAUDI ARABIA, JORDAN, MOROCCO, AND PERHAPS ALGERIA AND SUDAN. IN MENTIONING THESE STOPS, HE WAS OBVIOUSLY ONLY REFLECTING ON POSSIBILITIES, NOT LAYING OUT AND ITINERARY.

3. ASSUMING YOU THINK THE TRIP IS MANAGEABLE, WE WILL HAVE HORRENDOUS LOGISTICS PROBLEMS MOUNTING IT IN THE LIMITED TIME AVAILABLE, ESPECIALLY COMING AS IT WILL IN THE SAME TIME FRAME AS THE SOVIET VISIT. FOR EXAMPLE, WE ARE ALREADY REACHING THE TIME WE SHOULD BE SENDING A PRE-ADVANCE TRIP TO THE SOVIET UNION, ASSUMING THE JUNE 24 DATE IS FIRM.

4. ANY THOUGHTS YOU HAVE WOULD BE APPRECIATED, ESPECIALLY SOMETHING I CAN TELL THE PRESIDENT TO KEEP HIM CONTENTED. ANY PLANN

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ING
WE COULD DO WOULD ALSO BE HELPFUL, ALTHOUGH I THINK WE NEED
TO HOLD CLOSELY ANY MENTION OF A PRESIDENTIAL TRIP UNTIL YOU
RETURN AND MEET WITH THE PRESIDENT.

5. HAIG JUST CALLED TO SAY THAT THE PRESIDENT IS INTERESTED
IN A JOINT LEADERSHIP MEETING IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING YOUR
RETURN, PERHAPS NEXT MONDAY (I SEE NOW MONDAY IS A HOLIDAY,
SO WE PROBABLY WOULD NOT HAVE ANY CONGRESSMEN IN TOWN).
HE ALSO ASKED WHAT YOUR THINKING WAS ABOUT A TRIP AND EMPHASIZED
HOLDING ANY MENTION OF A TRIP CLOSELY UNTIL YOU RETURN AND
TALK TO THE PRESIDENT ABOUT IT.

WARM REGARDS.

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